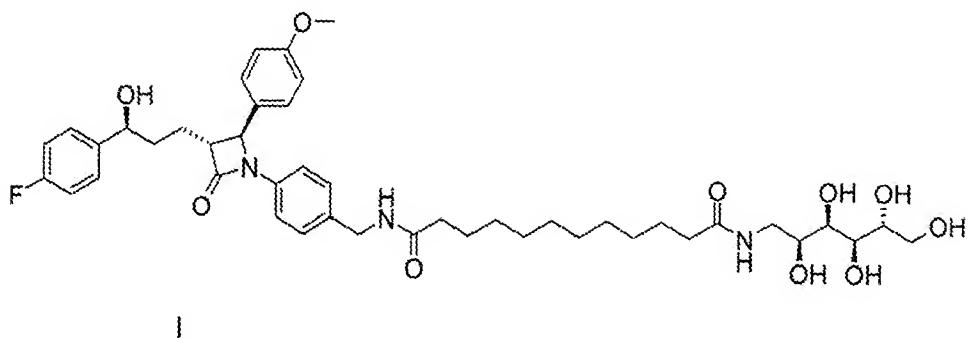


Claims:

1 (original). A compound of the formula I



or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof.

2 (original). A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and the compound of Claim 1.

3-6 (canceled).

7 (original). A method of treating hyperlipidemia comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

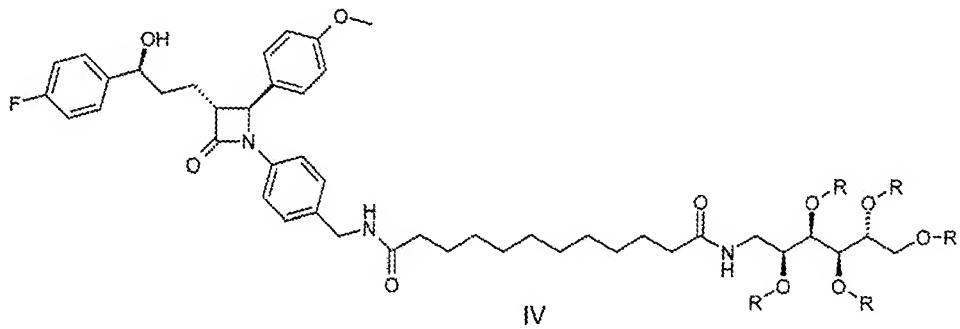
8 (original). A method of lowering serum cholesterol concentration comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

9 (original). A method of treating arteriosclerotic symptoms comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

10 (original). A method of treating insulin resistance comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

11 (canceled).

12 (original). An intermediate of the formula IV



in which R is acetyl, benzoyl, aryl (C₁-C₁₂)-alkylaryl or (C₁-C₁₂)-alkyl.

13 (canceled).